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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 15 Feb. 1952

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at Samokov and Vakarel

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1. In Samokov (N4219 E2333) and in Vakarel (N4233 E2343), there are special schools for proven Communist volunteers of approximately 24 years of age. The training is believed to be for command units.
2. After six months in Samokov where they receive training in weapons and in driving vehicles, the students are sent to Vakarel for an additional six months or a year for thorough parachute training. When they have completed training, the students are made officers even if they lack the educational requisites.
3. During the training course the students are considered as troops; however, they receive 16,000 leva per month. The students have no special markings on their uniforms.

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Comment:

There is a motorized artillery regiment stationed in Samokov to which volunteers could easily be attached for administrative purposes during training. During the summer and autumn of 1951 small groups of soldiers frequently maneuvered on the highlands north of Vakarel. Small infantry groups cooperating with two or three T-34 tanks have been reported. The area of Vakarel as well as the Ikhtiman area are suitable for parachute training.

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